

Message Text

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FOLL REPEAT BANGKOK 5312 ACTION SECSTATE 01 APR 74 QUOTE

IMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 5312

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

REF: STATE 063566

1. AS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD LIVED OUTSIDE THE PALE OF THE BUREAUCRACY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS BEFORE ASSUMING THIS PRESENT POST, I AM CONSTANTLY STRUCK BY THE DIFFICULTY ONE ENCOUNTERS IN OBTAINING DECISIONS ON RELATIVELY SMALL REQUESTS (IN FINANCIAL TERMS) WHICH HAVE IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PAYOFFS.

2. I AM NEVERTHELESS HAPPY TO NOTE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH BANGKOK 4934. YOUR ASSUMPTION REGARDING EXPERIMENTAL FARM AREA ABSOLUELY CORRECT.

3. I VISITED THE SITE ON JANUARY 10 ACCOMPANIED BY ALL THE KEY
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US AND UNFDAC OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION

AND CROP-SUBSTITUTION WHO WERE STATIONED IN NORTHERN THAILAND. THERE WAS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT AMONG THEM THAT THE EXPERIMENTAL WORK WOULD BE GREATLY EXPEDITED IF ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY COULD BE PROVIDED.

4. FULLY AWARE OF THE KING'S DEEP PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS UNDERTAKING AND ALSO AWARE OF THE SMALL COST INVOLVED. I PROMISED HIM THAT THE USG WOULD BE ABLE TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE RAINY SEASON. I IMMEDIATELY INITIATED ACTION WITHIN THE MISSION TO FIND THE BEST ANSWER TO WATER SUPPLY AT CHANG KHIEH AS WELL AS ACCURATE COST ESTIMATES.

5. REGARDING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 2 REFTTEL, FOLLOWING INFO PROVIDED BY USOM:

(A) MISSION REGARDS \$5,000 AVERAGE FIGURE CITED M.O. 1323.1.1, III-A ILLUSTRATIVE RATHER THAN LIMITING (NEITHER THIS M.O. OR OTHER SUPPORTING MEMORANDA AVAILABLE TO MISSION SETS A LIMIT ON THE SIZE OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS UNDER THIS AUTHORITY). WISH TO POINT OUT THAT PREVIOUS SDAA PROJECT IN THAILAND, BOTH FY 72 AND FY 73, INPUTS EXCEEDED "AVERAGE". IN FY 72 MISSION OBLIGATED \$23,285 FROM SDAA FOR MOTOR GRADER, IN FY 73 \$12,737 FOR PRINCESS MOTHER'S VOLUNTEER FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE.

(B) US INPUTS COULD BE REDUCED marginally WITH SOME LAGS IN IMPLEMENTATION. MISSION WILL DO UTMOST TO PROCURE DURABLE MATERIALS AT CHEAPEST PRICE. PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFIT WOULD BE LOST BY REDUCING QUALITY OF INPUTS AND SHORT LIFE OF LOW QUALITY SYSTEM WOULD REDUCE ECONOMIC BENEFITS. REMIND WASHINGTON AGAIN THAT IN LIGHT OF KING'S VITAL INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT, PUTTING IN A LESS THAN COMPLETE PROJECT WILL NOT SERVE THE USG INTEREST.

(C) CANNOT GUARANTEE INCREASED UNFDAC OR RTG CONTRIBUTIONS TO SITE. BOTH THAI AND FOREIGN UNFDAC STAFF SEE NEED FOR GREATER INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES BETWEEN RTG AND KING'S PROJECT WITH THE PROJECT AND EFFORTS WILL BE MADE THIS YEAR TO ESTABLISH THESE. IN MEANTIME, EXISTENCE OF MORE VIABLE SITE WILL A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIORI PRODUCE MORE UNFDAC AND RTG ACTIVITY AT THE SITE, INCLUDING MORE PHYSICAL INPUTS IF THESE JUDGED NECESSARY. IN ADDITION, INPUTS FROM UNDP MAE SA WATERSHED PROJECT WILL PROBABLY BENEFIT SITE B. FINAL MAE SA PLAN OPS NOT YET WRITTEN SO DEFINITE STATEMENT CANNOT BE MADE ON THIS POINT.

(D) WOULD BE UNWISE RTG TO COMMIT ITSELF TO DUPLICATION OF TECHNIQUE IN OTHER AREAS BEFORE TECHNIQUE HAS PROVEN

ITS WORTH. MISSION BELIEVES POSSIBILITY OF DUPLICATION OF ENTIRE EFFORT IN CHANG KHIEH AREA BY RTG WOULD BE INCREASED BY EFFECTIVE WATER SUPPLY AT SITE B. AS IN POINT (A) ABOVE, THE QUESTION OF RTG COMMITMENT TO DUPLICATION IS NOT RELEVANT TO SDAA CRITERIA AS CITED M.O. 1323.1.1.

6. AGAIN REQUEST ALLOTMENT \$15,000 ASAP IN ORDER IMPLEMENT PROJECT PRIOR TO RAINY SEASON. ADVISE.

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UNQUOTE RUSH

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